

## DR. A. A. BELL

Says "I will do my part toward keeping up the Blade."

Madison, Ga. Dec. 29, 03.  
Editor of Blade

Dear Sir—I enclose an article I wrote for the Searchlight. If you can, republish it.

It is just as applicable to your paper as to the Searchlight.

I will soon renew my subscription. I enclose \$1. I will do my part toward keeping up the Blade.

Yours Very Truly  
A. A. BELL

The following is the article:  
**TO THE READERS OF THE SEARCHLIGHT.**  
By A. A. BELL, M. D.

Dear friends:

Another year is drawing to a close, and I am afraid the importance of sustaining the editor devoted as it is to the ardent dissemination of the principles of true Liberalism, is not duly considered.

In this day and time the great principles inspired by Free Thought are not confined to quibbling over the meaning of certain passages of scriptures that in no way affect the interest of mankind. No, its mission is nobler; its scope is far beyond that. It advocates and defends the personal liberty of the individual and of the people at large, unfettered by the bigotry, superstition and fanaticism of religionists, and encourages the practice of true morality.

What has been the history of the world so far as revealed to us, in regard to the usurpation of all popular religions when in authority? John Bright, when a member of the House of Commons, stated in a letter published in this country, that the bishops in parliament always voted against the rights of common people—the great stay of a country. In confirmation of this, true to the letter, all religionists when in power not only enervate upon the liberty of the people, but in every way possible endeavor to subject them to their way of thinking. The patriots of our country in framing our Constitution were careful in disarming churchmen of all pretenses for persecuting those who differed from them on the subject of religion.

I apprehend that the majority of the people are not aware of the dreadful persecutions, and the awful punishments inflicted on mankind, and even on inferior animals by the religious fanaticism of the world. "The Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge" states that in one way, and another, fifty millions of people suffered—thousands had their limbs torn from their bodies, their tongues cut out, and many thousands were burnt at the stake, merely for differences of religious opinions. All this comes from a belief in a God, and the inspiration of a book. While all this cruelty was going on, if I correctly recollect, not a single clergyman was found endeavoring to put a stop to this foul blot on humanity.

We often hear it blurted out in the face of infidels, "Why oppose Christianity, does it not teach love to God, and love to man?" Yes, we hear it. But the position laid down by Ingersoll that, "those who love God the most hate man the most," has never been disproved. This is verified in the history of every popular religion and especially in the history of the Puritans. They fled from one despotism to set up another. All religions in their weakness, set out with good principles, but as they gather strength, they become persecutors. This certainly is exemplified in the history of the Society of the Jesuits. It was organized in 1534, under the seductive name of the "Society of Jesus." It claimed to enlarge and further the designs of the Roman Catholic Church. It became a dangerous rival of the mother church, and eventually rendered itself so despotic and so odious to the governments, whose protection it sought, that through the influence of the very church it was fostering, it was expelled from every Catholic nation, except some small principalities. This society was endeavoring to control the minds of the people. It seemed destined to supplant the church itself. Just what this society was aiming at other religious societies, with equal power, would do.

It is clear to my mind that any sect of religionists, whose representatives can stand up in their pulpits, with blind belief in a God and in the Bible as his holy word, and consign men and women, mothers and daughters to eternal torments in a "Lake of fire," for the misdeeds of this transient life, unbelief being the most deadly sin of all, would not hesitate to invoke the strong arm of the law, to suppress, and even burn at the stake, those who denied their doctrines, however contrary to reason and common sense they might be. It was a maxim of the Inquisition to burn the body that the soul might be saved. Just what religious bigots and fanatics have done they would do again with the same power delegated to them as that which the Inquisitors once had.

Those who never have, let them read the history of the Inquisition, and the religious wars, and the persecution of the world. They will be so utterly astonished that they will hardly know how to credit the pages of history. Some years ago when the pope of Rome had almost unlimited authority the emperor of Germany, in some way, incurred his displeasure. The pope, in order to humiliate him, caused the emperor to prostrate himself, and allow him to put his foot upon his neck, as an evidence of his authority over him. (See Buck's Theological Dictionary, a plate shows the pope with his foot upon the emperor's neck). It was left to Napoleon to humble the pope, by imprisoning him for his interference in secular matters.

There is nothing truer than that, "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," therefore, it is to be hoped that every Liberal will take pleasure in lending a helping hand in sustaining those who take upon themselves the task, and a laborious task it is,

of keeping the public mind enlightened upon a subject so vital to their prosperity and happiness.

I wish every Liberal would read the life of Voltaire, who was an apostle of liberty, it would inspire him with zeal for the spread of the principles of Liberalism.

Now, how is this to be attained, and what is the most desirable method of furthering so important an object? The press is a great power in the land. It takes labor and financial aid to accomplish anything. To succeed every friend of Liberal principles must interest himself in the cause. The people must have good and wholesome reading put before them. The public mind must be interested in the subject. The circulation of Liberal literature must be increased.

To further this object I, for one, will subscribe for five copies of the Searchlight, and donate five dollars to the Emergency Fund.

The editor of the Searchlight should be able to distribute, monthly, several hundred extra copies of his paper. If there are any Liberals who are not able to pay for the paper let us have a fund to supply them.

"A man of words and not of deeds, Is like a garden full of weeds."

So I herewith enclose ten dollars to carry out my part in supporting Mr. Shaw in the laudable enterprise he has undertaken.

Friends of the Searchlight arouse from your lethargy and let us make this journal a power in the land! Do not stop here, there are other Liberal publications that need help. I take pleasure in weekly distributing extra copies of the various Free Thought papers published in this country and in Canada.

Friends, let us join together in this matter and see what we can do. In union there is strength.  
Madison, Ga.

## SHORT LETTERS

Oklahoma, Okla.—I have just reached Oklahoma City, and read in the Blade of Dec. 13th "the committee's" plan for helping the Blade. Enclosed find my check for \$2 for which please extend my time on the Blade one year, and send the Blade for one year to Prof. T. E. Smith. He is principal of the city schools here. Hope you are well and are having some of the beautiful weather which we are enjoying here. Love to Aunt Lucy, Lucile and other members of the family.—H. L. PEAK.

Fairmont Springs, Kootenay, B. C.—I have just received the Blade that announces the probability of Mr. Hughes' retirement from the Blade office. I am very sorry to hear that it did not support him. Bro. Moore is an older man than you are and if I make a few suggestions I beg you will not be offended. Suppose you put the price of the Blade at \$1.50 per year. I believe it would have about as large a circulation as it has at the present time, and is cheap at that price. If Mr. Hughes can see his way clear to remain in the office of the Blade, I will give \$10 for this year commencing January 1st, 1904. I do not want Mr. Hughes to work for nothing. All Free Thinkers ought to help in this case. I would not work unless I could make a living out of my labor. Put the Blade up so it will support him. I read Dog Fennel with great interest. Enclosed please find \$1 to pay another year's subscription.—SAMUEL BREWER.

Antone, Ore.—I wrote Mr. Moore that I would give \$5 to keep the Blade on deck and you at the helm. Most any one can send \$2 if he will, and is not too stingy. The best way to serve all of us is to stop the paper as soon as our time is out, and then we will make some effort to get our dollar in on time, and I say damn the man that will not send the dollar on time. Now you will find enclosed \$5 for another year of the Blade, which will make \$5 for me, and you can make my tab. read January 1, 1905. It is paid up now to April, 1904, and I will give you the rest of the time and will begin with the new year, 1904.—NELSON BARNHOUSE.

Pontiac, Ills.—I give all my grandchildren a new year present, and I thought you came as near being a grand-child as any one so I send you \$1 for a new year's present. If all the Liberals that are able would do the same it would send you a flying. Don't talk about stopping the Blade. You must be wild. Tell Josephine K. Henry and Mrs. Closs to write something that the women would be glad to read.—JOHN S. HOLMAN.

Boston, Mass.—Mrs. Young sent me Dr. Young's copy of your Behind the Bars, which I have read carefully and with interest. I fully appreciate your battle against error and superstition, and also your courage, and no truth lover can do otherwise than honor you.—HENRY WOOD.

Brunswick, Maine.—Money comes hard with me, but rather than have you leave the Blade I will pay \$5 a year. Are there not one hundred that will do that much? Then there ought to be two hundred that can pay \$2 a year, and several hundred who can easily pay \$1 a year. Mr. Hughes, you ought to be most handsomely supported. There is no reason save penury, on the part of Free Thinkers, why you should be hard pressed for money. I send you enclosed \$5 and the cards to whom you can send the Blade for one year, if the paper continues, and I sincerely hope it will. If it discontinues keep the money. In a few days I will send \$2 more.—I. S. CURTIS.

Hennepin, Ill.—About Dec. 14th, I sent \$1 to keep the Blade going, and will help more later on. Money is

hard to get. A few of the rich and able to do, ought to furnish you all the money you need. You did wrong in putting the price down to 50 cents in clubs of five. The Blade is worth \$1 to any man. I don't want the paper to stop, and don't want you to lose any money by keeping it running.—J. M. STAUFFER.

Owensboro, Ky.—Please find enclosed \$2—one for renewal, and one for 1905. I am glad to see that the outlook is brighter. The Blade, by all means, must live, as it has no parallel in its tone or argument, and, if published ten years longer, will have no cause to complain for lack of support. The masses are longing for a change. The "Old Ship of Zion" has lost its rudder. It has been rocked amid the billows and foam of ignorance long enough. It has shown no reason and toleration and must be met by the same fate. Free Thought is actuated by justice and reason and progress can only emanate from such a source.—W. L. COPPERSMITH.

Bronston, Ky.—I send you, to-day, \$2—one to renew my subscription and one for a new subscriber. Never give up the ship while you have Rear Admiral Moore for commander, and such able Lieutenants as J. B. Wilson, T. J. Bowles, Josephine K. Henry, Mrs. Closs and others.—J. N. BROWN.

Deer Creek, Minn.—When I read your call for assistance to continue the Blade I was surprised, but I felt it the duty of every lover of Free Thought to do his or her duty to rally to the call and keep the ark moving, for without money, it can't live. But it must live. What is a dollar or two for such a cause? Enclosed find \$2.00 one dollar for renewal and one dollar to help pay the debt of the Blade. I have the promise of some new subscribers for the Blade, but all that I get will be at \$1 each, for I consider that if the Blue Grass Blade aint worth a dollar it's not worth subscribing for. I pay \$1 a year for it and consider it cheap at that price. My regards to Bro. Charley Moore and yourself and your families.—W. R. MATTOCKS.

Barr's Mills, Ohio.—My subscription has about expired. I cannot do without the Blue Grass Blade—my Bible—and I send you \$1 for another year. I am almost 53 years old, and have been out all kinds of weather, day and night, and I never ran up against any angry God, or ghost or devil, and I never expect to, for I can't see where they could be, of come from.—W. J. HOSTETTER.

Liberty, Ind.—Enclosed find post office order for \$4 for which please send one copy of Dog Fennel to Chas. Coughlin, Liberty, Ind., and one copy to myself at same post office. Please give us credit on your books for \$1 each if not here up, but if you are short, just run the two dollars down in your pocket, and say it's a small Christmas present. I think it time for sending Blade to subscribers fifty cents. My friend Coughlin and myself consider one dollar too low a price for such a paper.—C. G. BEEB.

Routt, Ky.—I enclose \$2 for which please extend my father's subscription to the Blade. I feel that all will be well, in time, because of the indomitable will of the publisher and the faith in the cause of the editor.—MATTY REID.

Circleville, Ohio.—I have read, with much interest, the Elliott debate with Rev. Cousin, which is very fine. Let the Blade have a special number for first of February, and invite contributions from leading Paineites. Thomas Paine's birthday is but a month off. You should do the same on Girard's birthday. I will send \$1 for papers to distribute. I hope you will print the letter from Brother Elliott in full, which you will find enclosed. Enclosed money order for \$1.—ESTHER A. VAN RIPER, M. D.

Washington, D. C.—I thought that I was out of the ring, but I can't let the Blade go down, if my little bit of help will save it. It would please the Christians, and a few infidels, for the paper to "go up the flume," and we all must try to save it if we can, but it is a heavy drag on some of us whose salaries are mortgaged already for all that is coming. In the interest of education yours very truly.—FRANK BURNS.

Ackley, Iowa.—Since the scare is over I take courage to boom the Blade once more. I had sold four of the five cards and if you will send me five more I will try to sell them.—A. LUTTERMAN.

Lenora, Okla.—Please send me the Blade for six months for which find enclosed fifty cents.—W. F. RADLER.

Fort Cobb, Okla.—Enclosed \$1.15—dollar due on Blade and fifteen cents for Virgin Mary. The Sacrament and the Christian Immortality a Normal Desire of the Human Mind. Will try hard to send you some new subscribers. I see a letter from W. W. Thomas, Peoria, Ind. Ter. He is a subscriber I got long ago, and when I see letters from those I have given Blades, from many places, it makes me feel like I had done a little good for humanity. I have a good letter from a relative for publication. He has come our way after being a Presbyterian for many years. I hope to help you later.—G. W. SEARCY.

Charleston, W. Va.—I am so rejoiced that the Blade is to live, and that you are to continue publishing it. I enclose \$4.50—two dollars for my subscription one more year, and \$2.50 for five subscription cards. I enclose a few stamps for a pebble from the Orient.—TOM SWINBURN.

Mineral City, Iowa.—I am so poor that I cannot afford the Blade. I would be glad to have just any old relic from the Orient. For my part I would just as soon have one from your home. Dog Fennel is all right. I must read it again. I would like to get another copy of your Rational View—would pay \$1 for it. I had one and loaned

it out and I guess I can't find it.—ABNER DICKSON.

Killarney, Nova Scotia.—Please find enclosed \$1 for renewal of Blue Grass Blade. Don't let it go down. We would have nothing to keep ourselves posted with. It is hot stuff for the Christians.—EDMUND WOOD.

Ezel, Ky.—I enclose money order for \$4.60 to be applied as follows. I want a pebble or something that I can mount for a watch charm. I would prefer something from the pyramids of Egypt. I was much interested in your description of a shell taken from a stone near one of the pyramids, but I have forgotten if you stated, the kind of a stone it was. I would like to know if the shell was a part of the stone. I am not an Egyptian nor the son of an Egyptian, but anything concerning Egypt interests me. It has a wonderful history but we will never know about it. I am a jeweler, but I never made any such jewelry as the Egyptians did. They made gold jackets for their dead, that fitted perfectly even to the finger tips. I belong to the craft that "did Paul much evil."—See Acts 19, 24.—T. F. CARR.

Answer—The shell came out of a stone that had at some unknown age, been thrown down from the top of the pyramid of Cheops, that pyramid having been built 3,250 years before Christ. The shell has, of course, petrified and is as hard as flint.

Whitehall, Wis.—Enclosed \$2 for subscription to Blade from the time my subscription expires. I have Dog Fennel. I gave \$10 to help you buy your linotype.—B. F. WING.

Los Angeles, Calif.—After wishing you a happy new year and many more of them, I congratulate you on the recent action of the friends of the Blade, by which Mr. Hughes will be enabled to continue its publication.—SINGLETON W. DAVIS.

Comment—Bro. Davis is the editor of the Humanitarian Review of Los Angeles, Calif., published monthly at \$1 per year.

Delphi Falls, New York.—Enclosed I send \$1 to continue my subscription to the Blade. In 1854 I canvassed the Blue Grass region of Kentucky, and formed many acquaintances in the vicinity of Lexington. Two years afterward I visited Rev. Alexander Campbell at Bethany, Virginia, where I saw C. C. Moore, at the Bishop's residence, a student for the ministry. He appeared to be a favorite in the Bishop's family. W. K. Pendleton appeared to be a principal at the college. I listened to his sermon on "Dress and also examined the college library. I was a Free Thinker then and am still so. In 1872 I formed personal acquaintance with the late D. M. Bennett, founder of the Rath Seeker. I wrote for and patronized his paper as long as he lived. In 1876 Bennett, H. L. Green, Seaver, Mendum, Brown and others, organized the first New York State Free Thinkers' Association at Cosad's Grove, near Walcott, Wayne County, N. Y., at which your humble servant attended. Nearly all since have passed away. Many able minds fill their places and truth goes marching on. In 1883 I formed personal acquaintance with Watson Heston, of Carthage, Mo., whose pictorial arguments set many honest minds to thinking. Wilson, Mrs. Henry, Mrs. Closs, Moore, Heston and others I congratulate upon their talents and the way they use them. How I would like to read Dog Fennel in the Orient, but I can't spell able. I am nearly four score. Success to the Blue Grass Blade.—A. BILLINGS.

Walton, Ind.—I got \$4 last evening—\$2 of John Thomas of Galveston. He said he considered he owned you the \$2. I also enclose \$2 for Dr. Carpenter and myself. I will see other parties if my health will permit.—D. ENGLER.

Pella, Iowa.—I send \$1 on subscription. I am poor as h— and cannot do much to bolster up the fearless Blade. I was Christianized in my early days and have gone well down the western slope, and they have got the old man's money and well nigh his life blood. The material man dies and goes back to the elements whence he came, and there will be nothing to boast but the immaterial man. Does any science know anything of an immaterial man, except his five senses? and each of those perishes with the organ that produces it. Who will cast him into an immaterial hell? and how can a man be tortured after he has lost the sense of feeling?—H. M. FISK.

Washington, Pa.—Enclosed \$2 for which send me one copy of Dog Fennel. I just now asked my wife if she would like to have you send her a pebble from the land of holiness. She used to cook yaller-legged chickens for the sky-pilots that came to our house. Put the balance of the check on the Blade. It is just two years ago, this month, since I left the pulpit. Then I had not read any infidel literature except the Bible. I became doubtful of the scriptures while still acting as a local pastor. I had examined the scriptures and commentators very carefully. For eight years I studied trying to harmonize the great book with itself and found it impossible. Then I took up the study of the other side, and was surprised to find out how easy it is to meet the old arguments and turn them down. Paine, Ingersoll, Green and the Blade have been of great help to me in the last two years.—T. J. PIATT.

New Rochelle, N. Y.—Some weeks ago I subscribed for the Blue Grass Blade for the sake of a poor old man who asked me. Now that I find it is an infidel paper, I make request that you do not send any more copies. God says "There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we may be saved but the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned, also the wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget god.—M. E. PIXSON.

Ryan, Ind. Ter.—Some time ago I

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instructed you to draw on me for \$25 for support stating I could raise that much in Ryan and surrounding vicinity. To-day I ordered the draft returned and enclose check for what I have on hand, \$16. The following persons contributed to this fund: W. J. May \$5, Warren Wolf \$5, N. B. Grayson \$5, M. C. Martin \$1, G. W. Hinton and A. N. Houser will each send in \$5 in a few days.—WARREN WOLF.

Prairie Grove, Ark.—You did grieve me in your recent paper when you talked of the Blade closing, or going down. Uncle Charley, I will speak the truth now and no other but the truth. In a few days more I will be 93 years old, and if I had my choice either for the Blade or for me to go down, I would say let me, David Maberry, go down to rise no more, rather than for me to be cut off from my infidel friends and hear no more of them, which would be the case with many of them. Let me file and the good news continue that floats through the Blue Grass Blade.

A Mr. D. F. Marrs, of Lorena, Tex., sent me the Blade and paid for it, for one year. At the expiration of that year I wrote you to stop it, that I could not pay for it, but you sent it on just the same. I paid for it and read it and will read it as long as I can see, if it continues to live, and when I have to go hence I want to leave a few dollars to pay for it, for some one else to read at my expense. Uncle Charley I have got \$1 and I want to renew. My time will be up New Year's day. I send the one dollar with these few lines. Charley, if I had another one I would send it along. That is one great trouble with me, I am so eager for the paper to live, and it has to depend upon others to keep it alive, it causes me to think, or say, damn the luck, I shall live in hope if I die in despair.

I am not able to be a man among men, but I'll be burned if I don't run as close upon their heels as I can. Poverty keeps me out of many things.—DAVID MABERRY.

Newark Valley, N. Y.—I cannot send the \$1 to pay for my Blade and cannot promise you when I can. I promised Brother Moore I would send \$1 for the Blade and \$1 for Dog Fennel in the Orient last November, but was unable to do so. Now as much as I regret losing the Blade I can not ask you to send it longer, but when I can pay my way out I will surely have it again. May the good old Blade ever prosper.—OLIV. L. LUCK.

Falsom, W. Va.—Please find enclosed fifty cents, which I think is the price of your paper one year. I am ever looking for both sides of everything.—JOHN L. RICHEY.

Answer—A single copy of this paper is \$1 a year or 50 cents in clubs of five and more.

Carbon Hill, Ohio.—Enclosed money order for \$2, for which shove our subscriptions to the Blade ahead one year. I think fifty cents a year is too small a price for the Blade. There are many Free Thinkers who will not take Free Thought papers for fear their business will be hurt by their orthodox neighbors. But I am hurt by only one or two of that kind in this place, and, for their patronage I do not care. I would not get rich if I did get their patronage and I won't break if I don't get it. There are several here who on the sly claim to be Free Thinkers, but they won't subscribe for a Free Thought paper. My old friend, Nicholas Feuchs and I are the only two that say what we think. There may be a God, but if there is he was taking a New Year's jolly when the Ironquels fire, at Chicago, burnt up nearly 600 women and children. I suppose the ministers will tell, in their pulpits, that it was a calamity sent, by God, for attending the theater. Why turn up little children who were taken there without their consent?—EPH. SHAW.

Waketon, Texas.—Enclosed find \$1 for which please send me one copy

Dog Fennel, second edition. Send it at once. I am anxious to read it.—J. H. ADDINGTON.

Fond du Lac, Wis.—I am glad to know that the Blade will continue. If we all do what we can it will not be obliged to suspend. May it continue for many years with you and Mr. Hughes as editor and publisher.—MRS. ELLA WOOD.

Oleta, Okla.—I have been very anxious about the suspension of the paper, but, in the last issue, the good news came that the old war horse would still have its rider in the saddle, going forth conquering and to conquer, and that the old guard were ready, faithful and true. Now in the fray, for some time back in 1903, I got mixed up with the enemy, I was short on scrip and could not be in at the rally to aid the Blade. The enemy carried me captive by a combined charge on our little town of Oleta. Campbellites in force, aided by Methodists and Baptists, took possession of our school house for three weeks, broke up the school in spite of protests, rallied their forces and began building a church, and have it, now, about finished. To save the school, for the balance of the session I just turned in and helped them build the church, so they could have a place for their show. No, I didn't give them any money. When that came to hand I rallied, so here I am with recruits. Enclosed find post office order for \$3.50—one dollar to pay for my renewal and \$2.50 for postal cards.—JESSE HIATT.

Winterset, Iowa.—I am glad to know that the Blade now has a brighter outlook. My next letter heads will be printed at the Blade office. I sincerely hope your appeal for subscribers to the Blade Magazine will not, much longer, go unheeded.

I had already sent one subscription; you may increase it to five.

Your idea of editing the Magazine so as to cheaply put all the choice articles into pamphlet form is certainly a good one. We need such a publication to put into the hands of certain individuals. The Blade, in its miscellaneous make up, is all right, in its place. But some times there are articles in it which ably show up the ridiculous side of so-called religious teaching. For those who have already seen the ridiculous side these articles are all right, but to others who have unthinkingly and innocently accepted these teachings as true, such articles are ridiculous and to such people the paper becomes ridiculously irrelevant.

We should have patience with these people. Most of us were just like them once. Probably even you, Bro. Moore, were no exception when you began preaching. Some times the Blade has articles that sound like swearing. Such articles are so shocking to the innocent believers. Of course we have all heard worse language from the pulpit but that don't matter. Some how a licensed preacher is supposed to be privileged in the use of so-called profane or even obscene language, while the editor writers of a Free Thought paper are somewhat restricted.

Now what we want is the Blade as it is, constantly getting better, and then we need the Magazine made up of the choice and weighty articles, in which the writers deal with stubborn facts without resorting to ridicule or the use of reckless language.

Such a magazine we can put into the hands of those who would be shocked by many of the Blade articles and it will be read and good results will follow. If I could only accept the scriptural passage "All things whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, believing, ye shall receive," my prayer would be that the required 500 subscriptions be sent in at once. Wish you would send me a relic from the Orient.—T. P. WEIL.